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Commission on Narcotic Drugs
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Follow-up to the twentieth special session of the General Assembly: general overview and progress achieved in meeting the goals and targets for the years 2003 and 2008 set out in the Political Declaration adopted by the Assembly at its twentieth special session, including guidelines and the consideration of the establishment of indicators for reporting on the progress achieved and on the implementation of the Global Programme of Action

Follow-up to the twentieth special session of the General Assembly

Report of the Executive Director

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I. Background

1. The General Assembly, at its seventeenth special session, adopted a Political Declaration and a Global Programme of Action on international cooperation against illicit production, supply, demand, trafficking and distribution of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances (resolution S-17/2, annex).

2. At its twentieth special session devoted to countering the world drug problem together, the General Assembly adopted a Political Declaration, the Declaration on the Guiding Principles of Drug Demand Reduction and measures to enhance international cooperation to counter the world drug problem, including (a) the Action Plan against Illicit Manufacture, Trafficking and Abuse of Amphetamine-type Stimulants and Their Precursors, (b) measures for the control of precursors, (c) measures to promote judicial cooperation, (d) measures to counter money-laundering and (e) the Action Plan on International Cooperation on the Eradication of Illicit Drug Crops and on Alternative Development (resolutions S-20/2, annex, S-20/3, annex, and S-20/4 A to E, respectively).

II. Goals and targets set by the General Assembly at its twentieth special session

A. Goals and targets for the year 2003

1. Emerging trends in the illicit manufacture, trafficking and consumption of synthetic drugs

3. In paragraph 13 of the Political Declaration adopted by the General Assembly at its twentieth special session, Member States decided to devote particular attention to the emerging trends in the illicit manufacture, trafficking and consumption of synthetic drugs. They called for the establishment or strengthening by the year 2003 of national legislation and programmes giving effect to the Action Plan against Illicit Manufacture, Trafficking and Abuse of Amphetamine-type Stimulants and Their Precursors.

2. Laundering of money linked to drug trafficking and strengthening of international, regional, subregional and bilateral cooperation

4. In paragraph 15 of the Political Declaration, Member States undertook to make special efforts against the laundering of money derived from drug trafficking and, in that context, emphasized the importance of strengthening international, regional and subregional cooperation. In order to achieve that goal, they recommended that States that have not yet done so adopt by the year 2003 national money-laundering legislation and programmes in accordance with relevant provisions of the United Nations Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances of 1988,[1] as well as the measures for countering money-laundering adopted at the twentieth special session.

3. Promotion of multilateral, regional, subregional and bilateral cooperation among law enforcement authorities

5. In paragraph 16 of the Political Declaration, Member States undertook to promote multilateral, regional, subregional and bilateral cooperation among judicial and law enforcement authorities to deal with criminal organizations involved in drug offences and related criminal activities, in accordance with the measures to promote judicial cooperation adopted at the twentieth special session. To that end, States are encouraged to review and, where appropriate, to strengthen by the year 2003 the implementation of those measures.

4. Declaration on the Guiding Principles of Drug Demand Reduction

6. In paragraph 17 of the Political Declaration, Member States recognized that demand reduction is an indispensable pillar in the global approach to countering the world drug problem. They committed themselves to introducing into their national programmes and strategies the provisions set out in the Declaration on the Guiding Principles of Drug Demand Reduction and to working closely with the United Nations International Drug Control Programme (UNDCP) to develop action-oriented strategies to assist in the implementation of the Declaration. They established the year 2003 as a target date for new or

enhanced drug demand reduction strategies and programmes set up in close collaboration with public health, social welfare and law enforcement authorities.

B. Goals and targets for the year 2008

1. Measures for the control of precursors

7. In paragraph 14 of the Political Declaration, Member States decided to devote particular attention to the measures for the control of precursors adopted at the twentieth special session, and to establish the year 2008 as a target date for States, with a view to eliminating or reducing significantly the illicit manufacture, marketing and trafficking of psychotropic substances, including synthetic drugs, and the diversion of precursors.

2. Declaration on the Guiding Principles of Drug Demand Reduction

8. In paragraph 17 of the Political Declaration, Member States committed themselves to achieving significant and measurable results in the field of demand reduction by the year 2008.

3. Eradication of illicit drug crops through alternative development

9. In paragraph 18 of the Political Declaration, Member States reaffirmed the need for a comprehensive approach to the elimination of illicit narcotic crops in line with the Action Plan on International Cooperation on the Eradication of Illicit Drug Crops and on Alternative Development, adopted at the twentieth special session. They stressed the special importance of cooperation in alternative development, including the better integration of the most vulnerable sectors involved in the illicit drug market into legal and viable economic activities. They also emphasized the need for eradication programmes and law enforcement measures to counter illicit cultivation, production, manufacture and trafficking, paying special attention to the protection of the environment, and, in that regard, strongly supported the work of UNDCP in the field of alternative development. In paragraph 19, Member States welcomed the global approach by UNDCP to the elimination of illicit crops and committed themselves to working closely with UNDCP to develop strategies with a view to eliminating or reducing significantly the illicit cultivation of the coca bush, the cannabis plant and the opium poppy by the year 2008.

III. Role of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs in the implementation process

A. Mandate emanating from the twentieth special session of the General Assembly and action by the Assembly at its fifty-third session

10. In paragraph 20 of the Political Declaration adopted by the General Assembly at its twentieth special session, all States were called upon to report biennially to the Commission on their efforts to meet the established goals and targets for the years 2003 and 2008. The Commission was requested to analyse the reports in order to enhance the cooperative effort to combat the world drug problem.

11. In its resolution 53/115, the Assembly requested the Commission and UNDCP to elaborate guidelines in order to facilitate reporting by Governments on the implementation of the Global Programme of Action and on progress achieved in meeting the goals and targets for the years 2003 and 2008, as set out in the Political Declaration adopted by the Assembly at its twentieth special session.

B. Action by the Commission on Narcotic Drugs

1. Forty-second regular session

12. At its forty-second regular session, the Commission examined its new mandates emanating from the twentieth special session of the General Assembly. The Commission adopted resolution 42/4, entitled "Guidelines for reporting by Governments on the implementation of the Global Programme of Action and on the progress achieved in meeting the goals and targets for the years 2003 and 2008, as set out in the Political Declaration adopted by the General Assembly at its twentieth special session". In that resolution, the Commission decided to establish an inter-sessional working group open to all States members of the Commission and observers, to elaborate guidelines in order to facilitate reporting by Governments.

13. In paragraph 2 of Commission resolution 42/4, the working group was requested to submit to the Commission, for consideration and adoption at its reconvened forty-second session, unified draft guidelines based, in particular, on the following general criteria:

(a) The need to design a mechanism that will allow the Commission to comply fully with the provisions of paragraph 20 of the Political Declaration adopted by the Assembly at its twentieth special session and with Assembly resolution 53/115 by, *inter alia*, analysing the national reports and any regional and subregional reports in a productive and effective manner;

(b) Full recognition of the mandates assigned to the Commission and the International Narcotics Control Board under the international drug control treaties, the Global Programme of Action and the decisions adopted by the Assembly at its twentieth special session;

(c) Full recognition of the tasks assigned to UNDCP, in its capacity as secretariat of the Commission, in particular the compilation and analysis of information submitted by Governments and the preparation of reports requested by the Commission and the Assembly;

(d) The need to design a simple and efficient system of reporting by Governments that will encourage a greater number to report, in a coordinated and integrated way, on their efforts and achievements in the area of drug control, avoiding, to the extent possible, duplication of efforts, by duly taking into account existing reporting procedures, in particular within the framework of the Board and regional mechanisms;

(e) The advisability of reviewing the questionnaire on the implementation of the Global Programme of Action, in order to reflect the outcome of the special session;

(f) Full recognition that, in paragraph 9 of the Political Declaration, the Assembly called for the establishment or strengthening of regional or subregional mechanisms, with the assistance of UNDCP and the Board, and invited those mechanisms to share experiences and conclusions resulting from the implementation of national strategies and to report on their activities to the Commission.

14. The inter-sessional working group, established pursuant to Commission resolution 42/4, met in Vienna from 1 to 3 June 1999 and from 28 to 30 September 1999.

2. Reconvened forty-second session

15. At its reconvened forty-second session, the Commission adopted resolution 42/11, entitled "Guidelines for reporting on the follow-up to the twentieth special session of the General Assembly", based on a draft resolution brought to its attention by the inter-sessional working group (E/CN.7/1999/21, annex I).

16. The Commission also adopted a unified single questionnaire, annexed to resolution 42/11, that includes the information required for reporting on the action plans and measures adopted by the Assembly at its twentieth special session, on the understanding that the questionnaire would be streamlined and amended during the reporting period. Pursuant to resolution 42/11, Members States would transmit to the Executive Director by 30 June 2000 their replies to the first biennial questionnaire. On the basis of those replies, the Executive Director would prepare for submission to the Commission a single biennial report that should also cover the difficulties encountered in meeting the objectives and targets agreed upon at the twentieth special session.

17. In accordance with resolution 42/11, the first biennial report should be examined by the Commission at its regular session in the year 2001. Subsequent reports would be examined by the Commission in the years 2003, 2005, 2007 and 2008. At its reconvened session in 2003, the Commission would consider whether the timetable for reporting remained appropriate. In its resolution 42/11, the Commission also decided to submit a report to the Assembly in the years 2003 and 2008 on the progress achieved in meeting the goals and targets set out in the Political Declaration. It was further indicated that the Commission should consider establishing, at its forty-third session or before, a set of common indicators, criteria and parameters for the preparation of its report. Accordingly, the Commission may wish to give due consideration, at its forty-third session, to taking the action called for in resolution 42/11.

C. Action by the General Assembly at its fifty-fourth session

18. In its resolution 54/132 entitled "International cooperation against the world drug problem", the General Assembly requested the Commission, with the support of UNDCP, to continue its work expeditiously, within the established time-frames, on the elaboration of guidelines to facilitate biennial reporting by Governments on the implementation of the Global Programme of Action and progress achieved in meeting the goals and targets for the years 2003 and 2008, as set out in the Political Declaration adopted at the twentieth special session, and to encourage an efficient collection of reliable data, an increase in the

number of Governments that report updated information on a regular basis and an improvement in the quality of their responses as well as the avoidance of the duplication of activities.

19. In considering the follow-up to the special session, the Commission may note that the Assembly, in its resolution 54/132, requested the Secretary-General to submit, at its fifty-fifth session, a comprehensive report on the implementation of the outcome of the twentieth special session, including the Action Plan for the Implementation of the Declaration on the Guiding Principles of Drug Demand Reduction. The Commission may wish to indicate issues which, in its view, should be contained in the report of the Secretary-General to the General Assembly.

IV. Follow-up action

20. At its forty-fourth regular session in 2001, the Commission will examine the first biennial report of the Executive Director pursuant to its resolution 42/11. The Commission will analyse the biennial report of the Executive Director and present its recommendations on, *inter alia*, national, regional and international action and cooperation, under a new agenda item entitled "Follow-up to the twentieth special session of the General Assembly", and under separate agenda items related to action plans and measures adopted by the Assembly at its twentieth special session. The Commission, in its resolution 42/11, decided that the Committee of the Whole would assess the biennial report of the Executive Director, and that the conclusions and recommendations of the Committee would be considered by the Commission in plenary.

21. At its forty-third session, the Commission will have before it separate reports covering the steps taken to follow up the action plans and measures adopted at the twentieth special session. The following two specific reports were prepared at the request of the General Assembly, in compliance with its resolution 54/132: (a) report of the Executive Director on the Action Plan for the Implementation of the Declaration of the Guiding Principles of Drug Demand Reduction (E/CN.7/2000/3); and (b) report of the Executive Director on the follow-up to the Action Plan on International Cooperation on the Eradication of Illicit Drug Crops and on Alternative Development (E/CN.7/2000/6). The report of the International Narcotics Control Board for 1999 on the implementation of article 12 of the 1988 Convention[2] will reflect the status of measures recommended at the twentieth special session to prevent the illicit manufacture, import, export, trafficking, distribution and diversion of precursors used in the illicit manufacture of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances. The annual report of the Board[3] will also cover amphetamine-type stimulants, as part of its review of the implementation of the Convention on Psychotropic Substances of 1971.[4]

22. The report of the Executive Director on the activities of UNDCP in 1999 (E/CN.7/2000/9) will reflect UNDCP initiatives to support Governments in meeting the objectives set by the General Assembly, including measures to promote judicial cooperation and the provision of assistance to governments in countering money-laundering. The portfolio of activities undertaken by UNDCP has been enhanced to provide direct support to Governments in implementing the action plans and measures, such as those aimed at the control of precursors, adopted at the twentieth special session. For example, UNDCP initiated a global programme for monitoring illicit crops and supported government action against the cultivation of illicit crops by assisting in the development of business plans, a strategic tool for eradicating illicit crops through alternative development. Another global programme will assist Governments in assessing the nature and extent of drug abuse and designing an appropriate strategy based on best practices. The global programme against money-laundering supports government efforts to counter money-laundering. A new initiative known as the "Offshore forum" involves an action-oriented approach to fight money-laundering through offshore facilities. Through the recruitment of outposted legal advisers, UNDCP has increased its capacity to assist Member States in implementing the international drug control conventions. To improve government efforts to meet the objectives established at the twentieth special session, UNDCP relies on its global network of field offices, which have enhanced its capacity to serve as a catalyst for action.

V. Consideration by the Commission on Narcotic Drugs of the follow-up to the twentieth special session

23. In its resolution 54/132, the General Assembly urged the competent authorities to implement the outcome of the twentieth special session, within the agreed time-frames, in particular the high-priority practical measures at the international, regional or national level, as indicated in the

Political Declaration, the Declaration on the Guiding Principles of Drug Demand Reduction and its Action Plan and the measures to enhance international cooperation to counter the world drug problem.

24. The Commission may wish to invite Member States to indicate the action taken to implement the outcome of the twentieth special session, in line with the above-mentioned request of the General Assembly. Following the review of action initiated or planned, the Commission is invited to provide further guidance to the implementation process.

Notes

[1] *Official Records of the United Nations Conference for the Adoption of a Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances, Vienna, 25 November-20 December 1988*, vol. I (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.94.XI.5).

[2] *Precursors and Chemicals Frequently Used in the Illicit Manufacture of Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances: Report of the International Narcotics Control Board for 1999 on the Implementation of Article 12 of the United Nations Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances of 1988* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.00.XI.3).

[3] *Report of the International Narcotics Control Board for 1999* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.00.XI.1).

[4] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1019, No. 14956.